



Newsletter of the world famous:

Air Schools

Spring 99

Letter from the Commanding Officer

I have been impressed with the quality of the Marines who have attended and graduated the courses here at 29 Palms. The instructors and I are continuing to seek feedback from both the FMF units and the new graduates on our training. With your input, the school can continue to produce the best air command and control Marines.

The Air Defense Training Section is actively working on updating the Air Defense course to more realistically reflect the T&R requirements and real world operations. Together with the help of the FMF representatives, this upcoming Program of Instruction (POI) review should mark the beginning of a more challenging and realistic Air Defense program.

Please free free to contact me here with any feedback/suggestions at DSN 957-7833.

Major M J Kibler

Air Support Training Section (ASTS)

The Air Support Training Section (ASTS) provided outstanding training and instruction to Marines attending Air Schools as well as outside units from 19 January to 2 April 1999. Air Support Control Officers Course (ASCOC) and Air Support Operations Operator Course (ASOOC) 1-99 convened on 19 January and graduated on 2 April. Of the 8 officers and 16 enlisted who began the course of instruction, 8 officers and 14 enlisted Marines earned the 7208 and 7242 MOS designator respectively.

In December 98, the ASTS welcomed aboard two new instructors, Captain Austin Bryant and Staff Sergeant John Hammond, who joined the team from MASS-2 and MACG-18 duty in Okinawa. Captain Bryant and Staff Sergeant are welcomed additions and are expected to provide a wealth of knowledge from their experience.

CASC Update (formerly HMD DASC)

ASTS has finally received the AN/TSQ-207 CASC. From 11 to 15 April, the team from Marine Corps Systems Command (MARCORPSYSCON) lead by Major Pete Devine delivered the first system to MCCES as part of the initial fielding of this new and highly versatile system. The team provided both operations and maintenance training for the system. ASCOC/ASOOC 1-99 was the first class to receive training on the system.

TBMCS/AFATDS

On March 1, Master Gunnery Sergeant Evans from MARCORPSYSCON meet with Captain Allison, Master Gunnery Sergeant Tong (SAO), Master Sergeant Day, and Staff Sergeant Zamarripa to

discuss AFATDS training and equipment fielding. ASTS will be able to pick up the equipment at Camp Pendleton during January 2000. Training is scheduled for June/July of 1999.

From 19 to 30 April 1999, the sub-contractors from Lockheed-Martin delivered the initial software package for TBMCS and held self-paced training on the package. ASCOC/ASOOC 2-99 will receive familiarization training on the system with 3-99 receiving the first formal training.

Visitors to ASTS

On March 3, Captain Allison briefed 22 Swedish officers from the Swedish Defense War College. The brief covered USMC Offensive Air Support doctrine and equipment. Questions and discussions from the Swedish officers fostered mutual understanding for all concerned.

On March 8 and 9, Captain Bryant briefed 80 officer students attending Amphibious Warfare School on DASC procedures and doctrine. The students were given a tour of DASC equipment to include the AN/TSQ-207 CASC. Issues discussed included the importance of the DASC in handling immediate air requests and DASC communications capabilities on the battlefield.

TAD Trips

From 2 to 4 March, Staff Sergeant Zamarripa went to MCAS Miramar to attend a conference on ATRIMS, the Training and Readiness automation system.

From 8 to 24 March, Gunnery Sergeant Gardea attended a TBMCS training and testing conference at Davis-Monthan AFB. Gunnery Sergeant Gardea assisted in evaluating the new information system for capability with and improvement on existing systems such as MSBL, CTAPS, AFATDS, and IFSAS.

On 29 March, Captain Allison, Master Sergeant Day, and Staff Sergeant Hammond attended the DASC symposium that was conducted during Weapons and Tactics Instructors (WTI) course 2-99 at MCAS Yuma, Arizona. Captain Allison provided a brief on how the current course of instruction is taught by ASTS and discussed the 7208/7204 merger.

Air Defense Training Section (ADTS)

The Air Defense Training Section (ADTS) graduated six new air defenders as 7210 officers for Air Defense Control Officer Course (ADCOC) 1-99 on 990326. Eighteen new 7234 enlisted controllers graduated the Air Control Electronics Operator Course (ACEOC) 1-99 on the same day. The ADTS also sent three enlisted air defense controllers back to the fleet with the 7236 MOS after graduating the Tactical Air Defense Controller Course (TADCC) 1-99 on 990201.

ADTS is currently training the TADCC 2-99 consisting of four Marines. There aren't any officers for the ADCOC 2-99 course. The Marines for ACEOC 2-99 started 990412 and are projected to graduate 990617.

Capt Burdette has become the ADTS training officer with the departure of Capt Jensen. Capt Jensen and Capt Setka were selected for an interservice transfer to the Air force and will be departing in May 99. MSgt Tuntland took over as ADTS training chief from MSgt Barton who will be retiring in June 99.

Course Curriculum Review Board

A Course Curriculum Review Board (CCRB) was held in Dec 98. Major accomplishments from the CCRB included a review of all media used, grading criteria, and remediation policy. Additionally, another CCRB was held in Mar 99. Major accomplishments from this CCRB included a proposal to totally restructure the ADTS instructional methods.

The new proposal for academic structuring will focus on the actual position/billet we expect a student to demonstrate upon reporting in to the FMF. Our goal is to provide a student who is ready to "plug and play" in a core billet on the Tactical Air Operation Center (TAOC) crew. This involves a detailed look at the current tasks for each curriculum and deciding which are relevant, need to be deleted, and/or need to be added. This new approach to training is currently under review/construction and will be presented at the upcoming MCCES, C Co sponsored Program of Instruction (POI) in Jul 99. The ADTS is requesting representation from all MACS units to attend this POI.

Program of Instruction review to be held July 99

The ADTS is planning on sponsoring the POI for the ADCOC, TADCC, and ACEOC courses in mid July 99. MCCES will fund for the requested participants from their prospective units. The ADTS intent is to have one TAOC officer and SNCO per MACS attend the POI.

AN/TYQ-23

The AN/TYQ-23 (V1) Tactical Air Operations Module (TAOM) is undergoing modifications at MCTSSA. The new (V4) versions will be delivered on a staggered basis back to the fleet as TAOMs are sent to MCTSSA for modifications. The ADTS expects to have an AN/TYQ-23 (V4) updated system by Feb 2000.

The ADTS is still awaiting the CBITS TAOM lessons in windows and UNIX formats.

TAD Trips

Capt Burdette attended a T&R and ATRIMS conference in Miramar, CA from 1 to 4 Mar 99. Additionally, he went to MAWTS-1 with Maj Kibler (Co C CO) on 17 Mar 99 to brief the C3 department on current issues involving the ADTS.

Capt Setka attended a TAOM V4 product review from 17 to 19 Feb 99. This review was conducted by Litton Data Systems, Agoura Hills, CA. Additionally, he went on the ADCOC 1-99 class trip with the 7210s to Nellis AFB, NV to tour the threat facility from 10 to 11 Mar 99.

GySgt Metheny attended TOPGUN 2-99 in Fallon, NV from 18 Jan to 19 Feb 99. Additionally, he attended ASCIET 99 in Savannah, GA from 23 Feb to 12 Mar 99.

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